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Mississippi Star

January 1997
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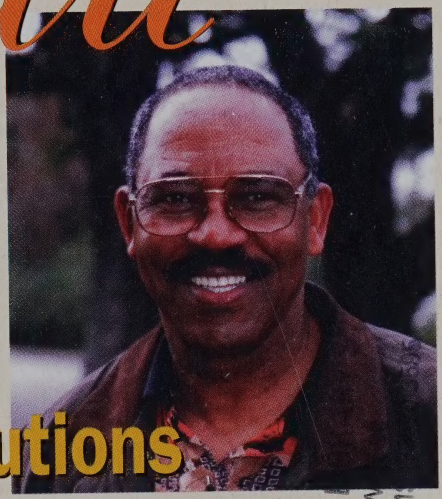
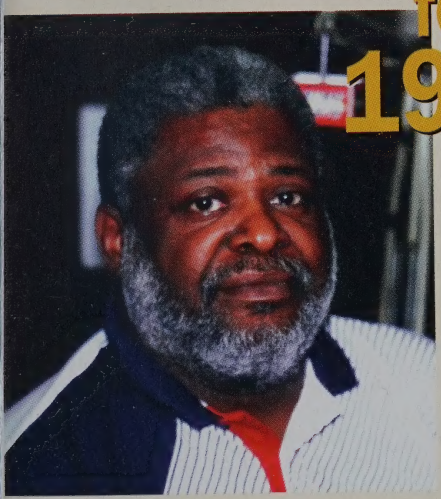


Resolutions for 1997



Dr. Kim Vaz: Empowering Women

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VOL. 1 NO. 5 JANUARY 1997

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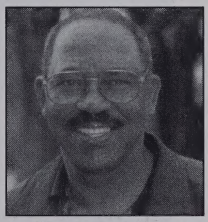
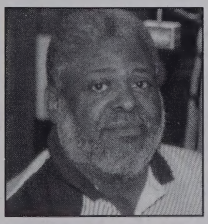
Miyoka Broussard



Willie E. Bradley, Jr.



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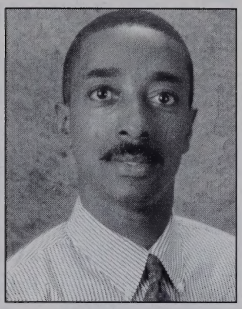
Publisher's Page



Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.

Other than birthdays, there's no greater time marker than the start of a new year to set goals to improve or change our lives. We vow to quit smoking, stop drinking, save money, lose weight, spend more time with our children, among many other things for our New Year's resolutions.

Media tends to encourage us to take advantage of this opportunity for a fresh start, too. The weight loss companies appear to spend the majority of their advertising dollars as one year ends and a new one begins. I wonder if we'll get bombarded by the stop smoking patches and other smoking cessation remedies over the next few weeks. My guess is that we will. I'm excited to say that I quit smoking just over twenty years ago. I'm glad I don't have a need for these products. However, I do have room for personal, professional and spiritual growth.

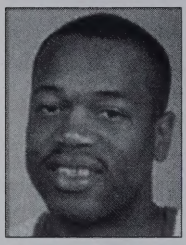
I haven't decided on any New Year's resolutions as yet, but I am sure that I will have some before midnight on December 31. I always make New Year's resolutions. The question is, "Do I follow my New Year's resolutions for twelve months?" Sometimes I do, but most of the time I don't. I am elated that I did follow my 1996 resolutions, or should I say my resolutions of 'the past five or six years. *Mississippi Star* had been either a dream or a goal for quite some time when the first issue came off the press in August. A sincere thank you to the many friends and supporters who supported the many efforts and chores of getting *Mississippi Star* from an idea to a publication delivered to so many interested readers in such a short time.

My 1997 resolutions will certainly include a clause for maintaining the integrity of the first four issues of *Mississippi Star* as we cover new and different topics aimed at a broader reading audience. And certainly, I hope *Mississippi Star* earns a regular space in your monthly reading time banks. Or maybe your New Year's resolution will become a reality in 1997 that will be of interest to Mississippians. Let us know; we would certainly like to feature you and your accomplishment in *Mississippi Star* and share with our readers.

Best wishes to all of you for a peaceful and prosperous 1997! MS

Corrections

In the December issue story Mississippians in the NBA, Gerald Glass was mistakenly listed as Kevin Glass. The picture beside the profile of James Robinson was actually the picture of another player, Glenn Robinson.



James Robinson

Also, former Moss Point High standout Litterial Green was not included in the summary article Mississippians in the NBA because he was not listed in the NBA's official roster. The 6'1" point guard is playing for the Detroit Pistons behind another Mississippian, Lindsey Hunter. Green spent the past two seasons in the French League and the CBA. (Photograph not available).

Letters

Dear Mr. Singleton

I'm glad you came to see us and thank you for the magazine. I like it because it has your picture in it and you look nice in the picture. My favorite part of the magazine is where it says Be A Real Winner: Don't get wasted on drugs. I won't take drugs because it is nasty and it is not a good thing to do.

Your new friend, Dusty Hanna
28th Street Elementary
Gulfport

Dear Editor,

I am writing first to congratulate you on your publication; it is another need met in our community. I find the articles interesting and informative. As I men-

Mississippi Star

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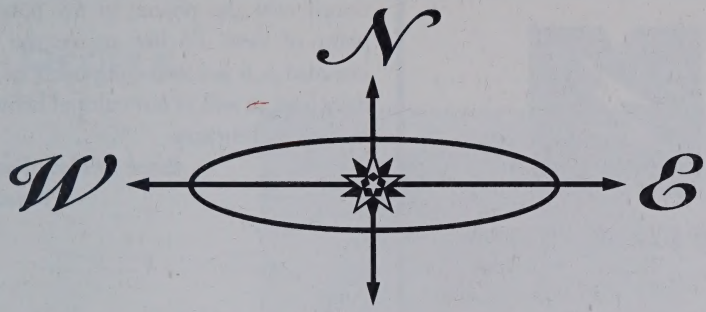

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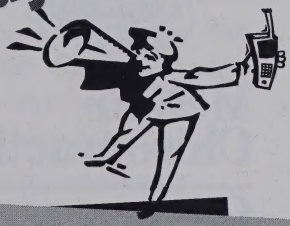

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tioned over the phone, in my personal point of view, I'd like to see the arts included as it is a vital component of our daily lives as well as our cultural heritage, not just in February.

Joseph Anthony Pearson
Waveland

Grandparents Rights

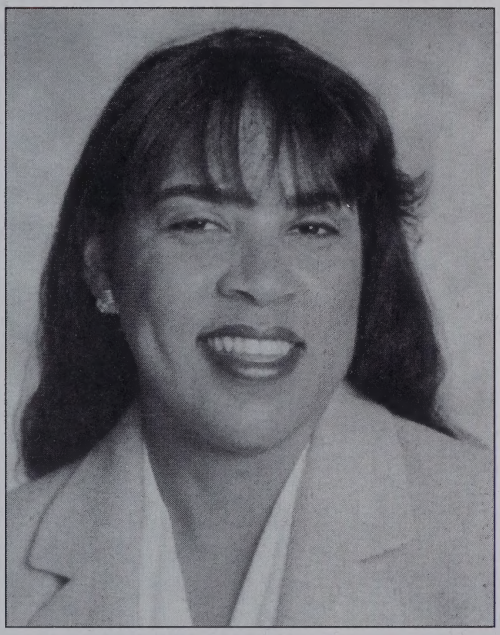
What about grandparents rights? Are there funds set aside for grandparents? There are funds set aside for foster parents. Why shouldn't grandparents have the same rights, especially if they love their grandchildren and want to visit with them?

Many grandparents are retired and on low, fixed incomes, but their love for their grandchildren isn't. There's no price tag on love. Our rights are taken away by no fault of our own, and sometimes even trampled on! You have to abide by their rules or suffer the consequences. The social workers might encourage grandparents to visit with their grandchildren, but they don't give a hoot where the money is coming from to do so.

I have been running this race for my grandchildren for over two years now, and it gets to be real expensive sometimes, especially if you have to travel far to visit with them, and that's not counting if you take them home with you for a week or so. But as I said before, you can't put a price tag on love; so you do what ever it takes to make them happy within reason.

It sure would be nice if grandparents who are retired and on fixed incomes would get some kind of voucher for gas and food when visiting their grandchildren.

Thanks.
Ellen M. Mathews Checotah, Oklahoma



Patrice M. Daniels is the managing director of Bankers Trust Securities Corporation in Los Angeles, California. She is the senior person on teams which structure leveraged buyouts (LBO's) and high-yield financing deals which range from $100 million to $1 billion.

A native of Southern California, Patrice says that her job requires a great deal of energy and flexibility. Her workweek may involve upwards of 80 hours behind the desk, on the phone, and around the conference table. She says that sometimes she has to be prepared to get on a plane in a moment's notice.

Ms. Daniels earned an undergraduate degree at the University of California at Berkeley and an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago. She is the daughter of Alonzo M. and Shirley Daniels of Altadena, California and the granddaughter of Alonzo M. Daniels, Sr. of Bay St. Louis. MS

PEOPLE

Felecia Craft-Palmer is a State Farm insurance agent in Bay St. Louis. The Biloxi native says that her career provides her with a great deal of reward because she enjoys working with people.

"The most gratifying part of my job is being there when people need me," Felecia explained. "I've had several life insurance claims. Being able to tell that customer that I'll have that check for him is a great feeling."

Felecia holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and a masters degree in business from William Carey College. She is married to Anthony Palmer, a computer consultant at Tulane University in New Orleans. The couple resides in Diamondhead. MS

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Saving Money: Pay Yourself First

A common goal for many of us is to have enough money set aside for the different situations we face over the course of our lives - the education of our children and a comfortable retirement are at the top of our lists.

But how do we get from saving that first dollar to the accumulation of that successful "nest egg"? This is the real challenge. However, we all know that this is possible. The story of Oseola McCarty, the lady in Hattiesburg who accumulated in excess of $150,000 from her earnings washing and ironing clothes is a prime example of savings success.

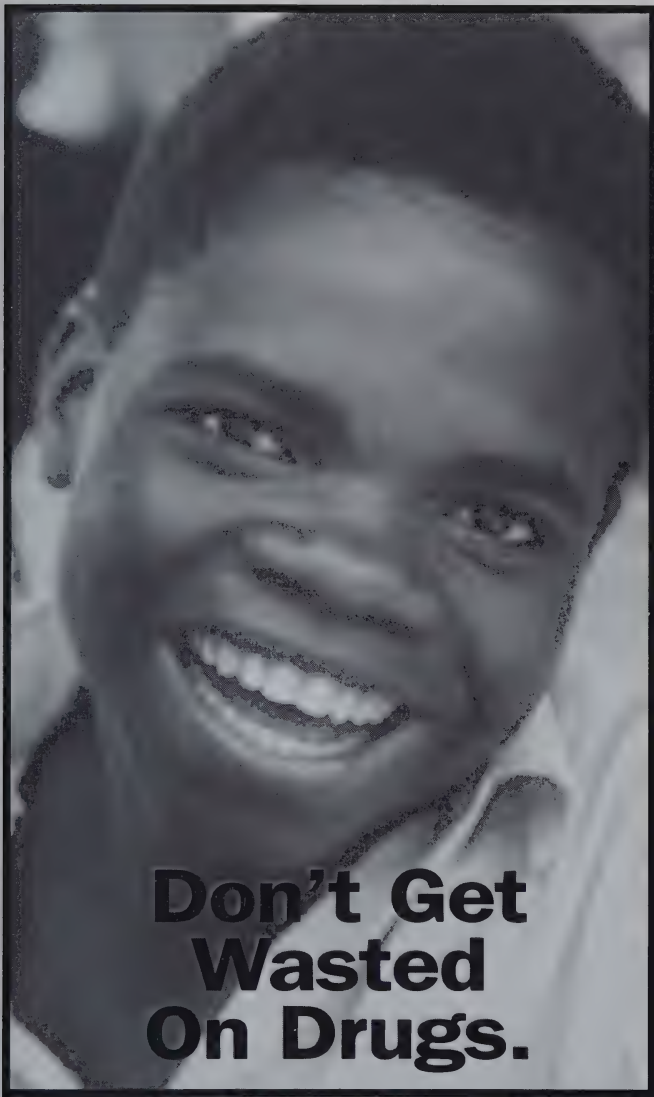
Jeannie Deen

A simple rule of thumb is to pay yourself first. In other words, put aside a certain amount of money each pay period into a savings account before you pay your bills and determine how much money you will spend on clothing, eating out and new purchases. Savings consultants and Investment counselors suggest that this is a way to condition ourselves for saving money. Initially, this may appear difficult to do, however, as time passes, it becomes a habit and a priority; and the saver enjoys observing the growth from the accumlation of money and the interest he/she has earned.

Jeannie Deen, a vice president of The Peoples Bank of Biloxi recommends that savers build a "one-on-one" relationship with a local banker, an accountant or investment counselor. "Question the various types of savings accounts and investment programs they offer," she says. "Question savings bonds. Question CD's (certificates of deposit). There's a lot of information out there; it's their jobs to provide answers to the questions savers and investors have."

Ms. Deen also encourages working people to take advantage of savings programs offered by employers. "These programs may offer matching funds which in some cases amount to 50% or more of the employees contribution. And this money is generally tax deferred, which means that the investor won't pay taxes on this money until it is withdrawn."

So when should you begin a savings program? January 1997 is as good a time as any to begin your savings program. According to Ms. Deen, developing a good savings strategy with consistent deposits is critical. "It doesn't matter that the amount you begin with may seem small; you just may surprise yourself to realize what you have accomplished after a year of consistent contributions to your plan." MS



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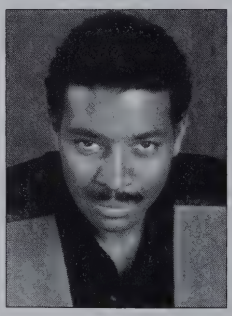
MOVIE REVIEW

THE PREACHER'S WIFE

by Syd Rushing

I Believe in You and Me is the theme song for the movie, *The Preacher's Wife.* Whether this one proves to be a miracle commercially depends solely on the moviegoing public's fickled pocketbooks. Supplying star pull is the princess of Pop music, Whitney Houston, playing the dedicated preacher's wife. Pop divas have sometimes met the demise of the box office blues, but so far, Houston has been fortunate as her management has chosen projects which showcase her gifts and minimizes her shortcomings.

As always, Whitney's vocal prowess takes the foreground. With the various musical dishes of *The Preacher's Wife,* she croons, growls, and wails her way into our hearts. She mesmerizes us when she delivers pure vocal energy. Fron an acting standpoint, she aspires toward the performance level of a seasoned stellar cast. With the likes of Denzel Washington, the irrepressible Jenifer Lewis, and the sincerity of the marvelous Loretta Devine, a director couldn't ask for a better cast.



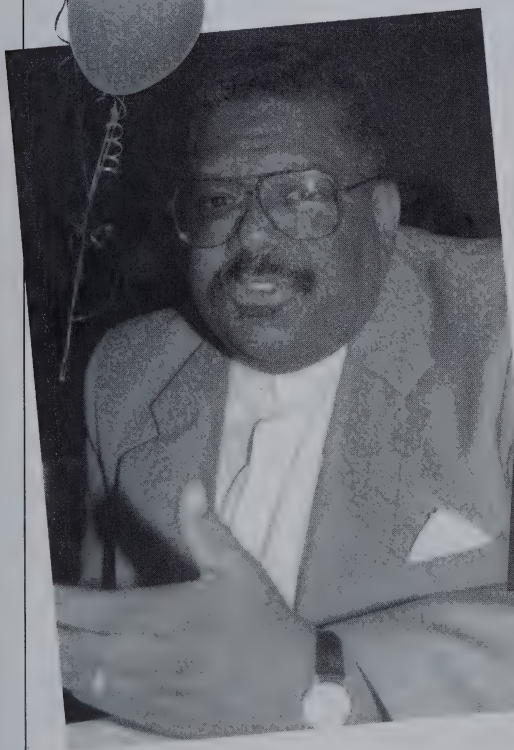
Syd Rushing

Penny Marshall takes the director's chair as she attempts to breathe life into a static script. Very little moves in this slow, pedantic endeavor that labors between a comedy and a drama. With the church scenes, the story begins to unravel the true essence of its characters. As interesting as the characters appear, only the surface has been scratched. Even with this, the film has some strong positives. In its simplest form it is a story of dreams, miracles, and love. Being that so many films about African Americans focus on a microcosm of our lives, this is an invigorating turn. Instead of gangbangers, loose women and a plethora of profanity, we are invited to a wolesome film for family audiences.

This year black victimization is out and black empowerment is in. No longer can we accept glorified genocide in films to represent our entire way of life. Today, African-American families are a $40 billion consumer as a nation. When we show our support or make our disapprovals vocal, we send signals to Hollywood. It is imperative that we pull our resources together in a concerted effort to say, "We are putting our money where our mouths are." So with that, although not action-packed, *The Preachers Wife* is a treat for family night. MS

State Representative Percy Watson's Appreciation Party

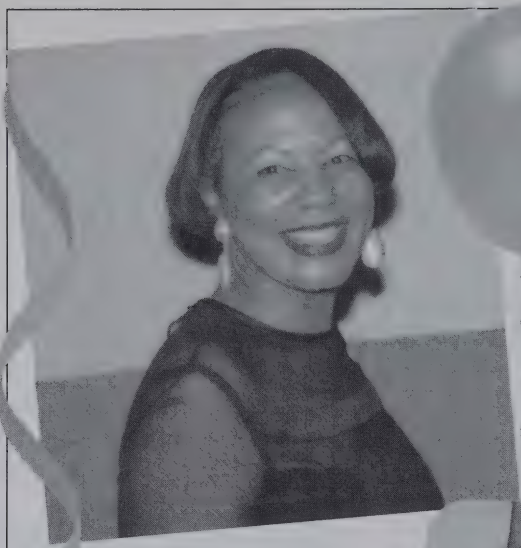
December 21, 1996



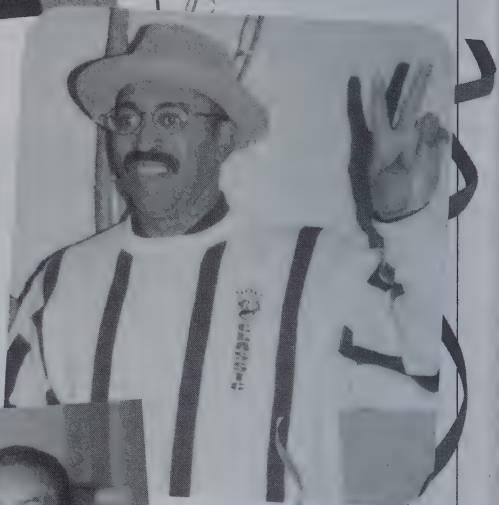
Eddie Holloway looking chic.

Jackie Dedeaux having fun on the dance floor.

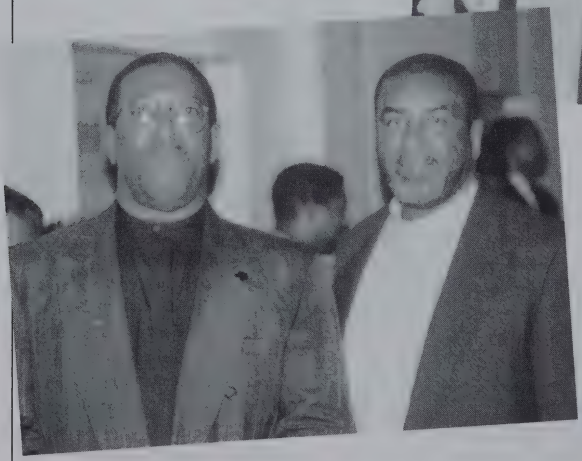
continued on page 16



Melba Houze glows.



Marvin Robinson strikes a peaceful pose.



Howard Lockett and Wes McGee looking dapper.

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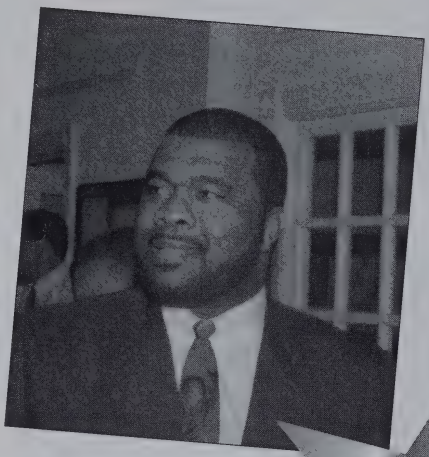
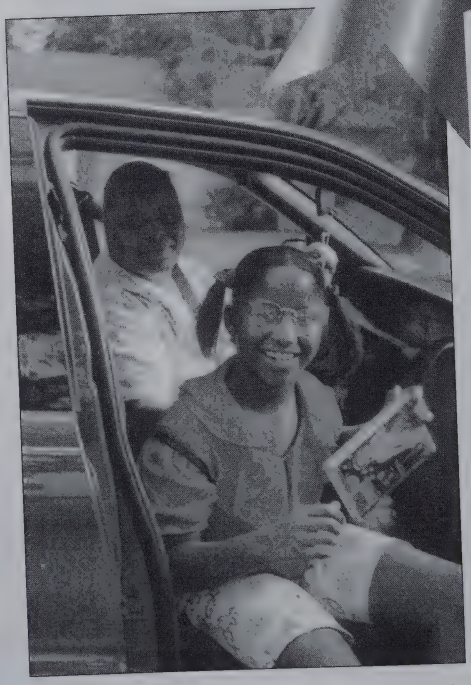


Attorney Warren Conway enjoying Mississippi Star celebration.



Ethel Gladney dropping off fourth-grade daughter, Whitney at school.

Britney Williams

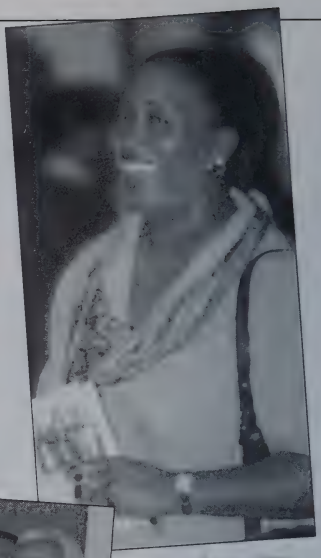
k at 1996

Dr. Philip Terrell profiled in Education issue.

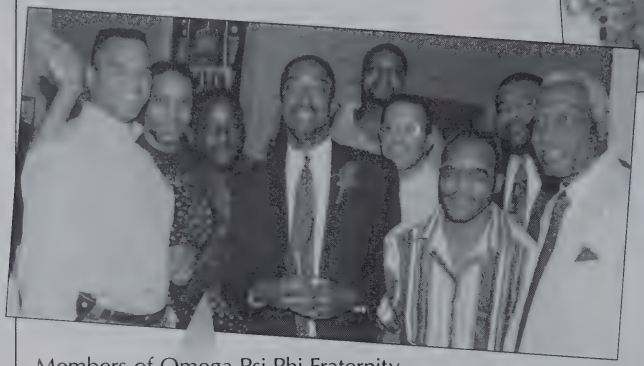
Monique models "cool" Fall look.

Magnolia State's Soap Box Derby Champion
12-year-old Brandon Biggs

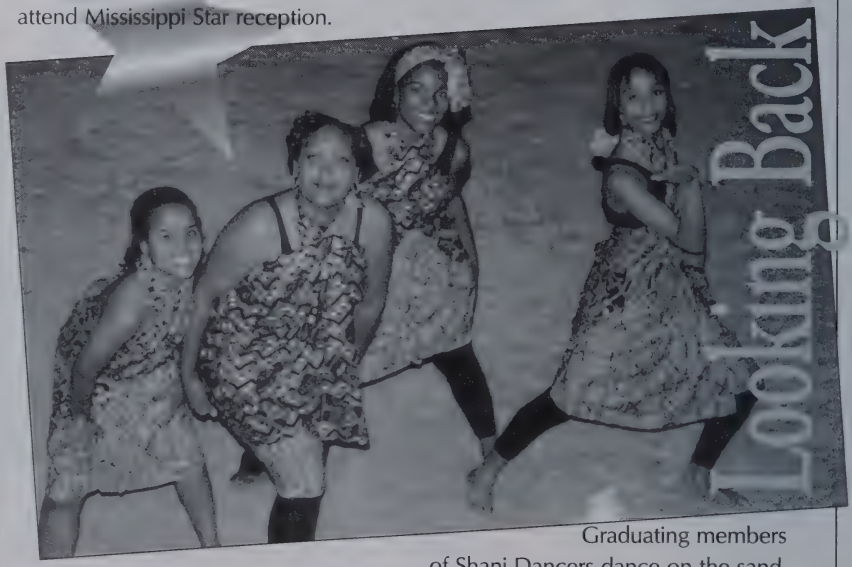
Oseola McCarty Scholarship recipients, Carlotta Barnes and Stephanie Bullock.



Singer Trina Carter-Smith overcome with laughter.

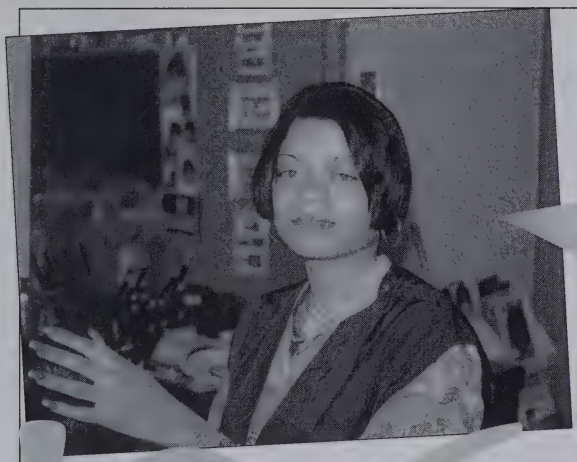


Members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity attend Mississippi Star reception.

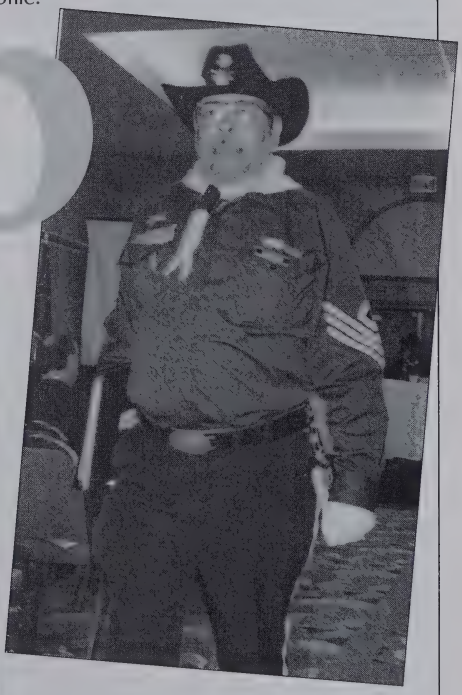


Graduating members of Shani Dancers dance on the sand.

Looking Back At 10



Querita Harris poses for People profile.



Buffalo Soldier reinactor at NAACP convention in Biloxi

Tracy Joseph conducting an interview.

My Present View of the Bible

by Bobbie Hays

The Bible is the Book of all books. No matter how many books one reads or studies about the Bible, there are none equal to the Bible itself. There is no substitute for the Bible.

My view of the Bible began to take shape even as a child when I really didn't understand its importance in humanity's existence. All I knew was I had an old Bible with torn pages and I

Bobbie Hays

would try unsuccessfully to make some sense out of what I was reading and never could. Nevertheless, I loved to pick up this Book and turn its pages because I believed that there was something special about this Book and that it was to be respected. Then in later years I discovered there were some guidelines included in this Book that people were to follow, namely the Ten Commandments.

Today, I view the Bible as a road map to salvation, a compass to one's closer walk with the Lord, a source of strength to face each new challenge of the day, a place to find answers to life's problems, and a love letter from a Father to his children.

The Bible is a road map to salvation. It is through the Word of God that man is ushered by the Holy Spriit to make a decision to accept Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour and to follow him. In Romans 1:16 we find "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, the Jew first also the Greek." The Bible draws sinners to Christ through the aid of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible is a compass to my closer walk with the Lord. To read it and prayerfully meditate on what I read help me to understand the ways of God through His Son Jesus. The more I read and study how Jesus handled situations, the more I am becoming like Him. When I feel I am traveling down the wrong road, the Bible puts me back

on track because the Word of God is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

The Bible is a source of strength to face each new challenge of the day. When I become weak due to some trying circumstance, I can go to the Bible and read Psalm 23 or Psalm 46 and suddenly my strength is renewed. Not only will my strength be renewed from reading Scripture, but also when the Holy Spirit brings a certain Scripture to mind. For example, just the other day I had grown weak after working hard, and I felt as though I couldn't go on and the Holy Spirit quickened me with Isaiah 40:29, "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increases strength." I realize that whenever I read the Word of God, I am taking in the very breath of God. The more I read and study it, the more strength I gain to face and be able to stand up against those trying circumstances.

Finally, I view the Bible as a love letter from a Father to his children. When I sit down to read the Bible, often I feel as though God is speaking directly to me. I feel that He loves and cares for us so much that He wants us to know and understand as much as we can about Him; though we will never fully comprehend all the mysteries written therein until we see Him face to face.

The Bible is indeed the most important Book in my life. I dare not say that I have been educated until I have obtained a thorough grasp of the wisdom and knowledge found in the book of books, the Bible. This Book is able to draw man to God, succor man in his daily walk with God, strengthen man in his weakest moments, supply an answer for every problem, and build intimacy between man and his Creator. What a source of inspiration, the Bible! MS

Bobbie Hays is a teacher, a freelance writer and the single parent of two college students.

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Dr. Kim Vaz Teaches & Empowers Women

by Maurice Singleton

"I had to let that man drop out of my heart," is a quote Dr. Kim Vaz references to make her point that African-American women could draw a great deal of knowledge and wisdom from the life experiences of women who achieved success in the United States several generations ago.

"Who was it who said that?" she asks herself as she attempts to decipher the pearls of wisdom she's picked up from the many women she has studied. "I think it was Harriet Tubman."

A native of New Orleans, Dr. Vaz is an assistant professor of Women's Studies at the University of South Florida in Tampa. One of the courses

Dr. Kim Vaz

she teaches is Black Women in America in which her students study the chronicles of historical figures who in many cases overcame tremendous obstacles on their roads to success.

"Hundreds of women left Tennessee simply because Ida B. Wells told them to go west," Dr. Vaz proudly discusses an example of women taking significant risk to improve their situations.

"There are literally thousands of women's experiences women can draw on," she explains. "Women need to know that learning about themselves does not mean that something is wrong with them. It means that they are empowering themselves. Women can't be afraid to learn about themselves."

Dr. Vaz enjoyed telling the story of an all-female band of the 1940's, called the International Sweethearts of Rhythm. This group of women broke away from an organization that was exploiting them - making lots of money off their talents - and formed their own band. "They performed all over the world, and they became one of the most acclaimed bands of the '40's," she explained.

It's not just the experiences of African-American women that present generations of African-American women can learn from, according to Dr. Vaz. The experiences of African women are also valuable.

"In Africa, everybody has a foot in the economy," she explains enthusiastically as her eyes reflect the colorful, vivid memories of her many visits to the African continent. "You see the women in the marketplace selling their goods that they've created and produced.

"Every black woman should develop a skill which will allow them to operate outside the mainstream," she explains. "Then we should make a commitment - go out of our way if

necessary - to support a woman-owned business. It is really necessary that we make a commitment.

"There was a time when we did this," she points out and encourages me to remember a time when women sewed their own dresses or made dresses for other women in the community.

"Prior to integration we had our own beauty salons. We had our own newspapers. We ran schools. We had our own businesses. We have lost our incentive to gain skills," she nods disgustedly. "We have lost so much."

There is despair, but the situation is far from hopeless, Dr. Vaz asserts. Foremost, she believes that African-American women should study themselves by reading about Ida B. Wells, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman and the many women whose lives could serve as models. And it is important that we share these stories with our children and each other, she explains. And media has a responsibility, too.

"We need to right what's wrong with media," she affirms. "We need to create images of women on TV and in magazines who are not victims, but people who are intelligent, people who can make contributions. We need to portray different sides of women. Once these outlets are created, we have to support them."

Artwork on the above greeting card is by Alao Dipo, of Osogbo, Nigeria.

Who are Dr. Vaz' role models? Aside from the women referenced here, Toni Morrison and Roseanne Barr. "Their work is consistent," she explains. "Roseanne takes a feminist approach in her work in TV that creates problems with advertisers. She takes risks."

Dr. Vaz practices what she preaches: In addition to her professorship, Dr. Vaz manages a greeting cards business, Afiba's Greetings, which she started in early 1996. She is also the author of *The Woman with the Artistic Brush,* a life history of Yoruba Batik artist, Nike Davies. MS

Dr. Kim Vaz is the daughter of Winston and Lois Vaz of Bay St. Louis. Afiba's Greetings cards are available at P. O. Box 292455, Tampa, FL, 33687. Phone: 813-987-9455 E-mail: AfibaGrt@AOL.Com

Prentiss Bulldogs

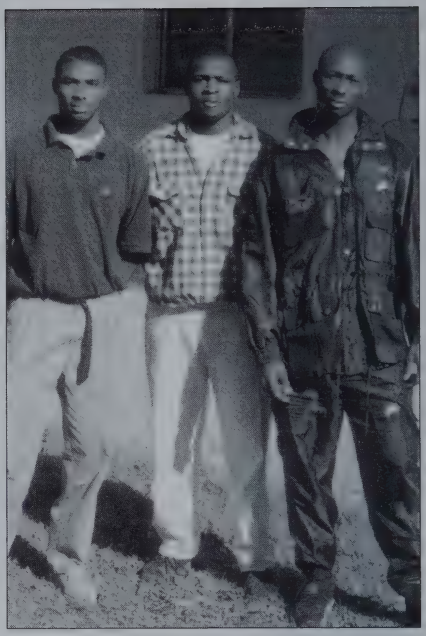
"The whole season sort of mystified me," said Prentiss High School football coach Alvin Gray, reflecting on the success of his team, finishing second in the state Class 3A division. "We've had better talent before, but this group came together as a team. They learned to play within the framework.

"Bassfield beat us 3-0 the first weekend in November, and I believe this was key to our turnaround. I always told them that if they got into the playoffs, you will be prepared, because the last three teams we play - Collins, Bassfield and Columbia - will prepare us.

"It has to do with timing," Coach Gray explained. "Who you're playing and when you're playing them."

Prentiss High defeated Bassfield in the South State Championship, 14 - 12, before losing to Shannon 43 - 30 in the state championship game.

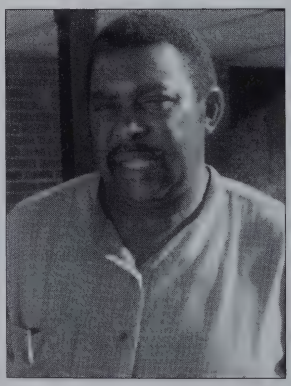
"They're a great group of kids," Coach Gray said. "We've had them in our program since the seventh grade. Take Michael Gholar (quarterback and defensive back), for instance, he only missed one practice in six years.



Prentiss High Players, from left: Michael Caraway, Kendrick Smith, and Michael Gholar.

In fact, he really didn't miss then. He was working, and got to practice late."

Highlights of 3A State Championship Game: Gholar, 6'6", threw for 303 yards and three touchdowns. Kendrick Smith, 6'4" tackle played the entire game, sacking the opposing quarterback on third down for a six-yard loss. Michael Carraway, 6'3" receiver and defensive back, finished game with 115 receiving yards, capped by a 63-yard pass play. MS



Coach Alvin Gray

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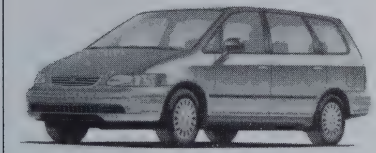

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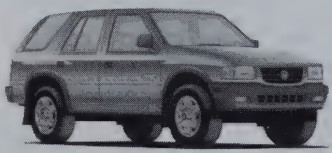

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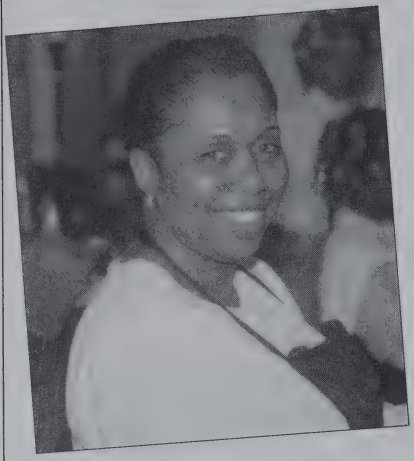
*Coupon must be presented at time of purchase

Resolutions and Goals for 1997



Tessie Tims
Biloxi Businesswoman

"To progress and put the Lord first."

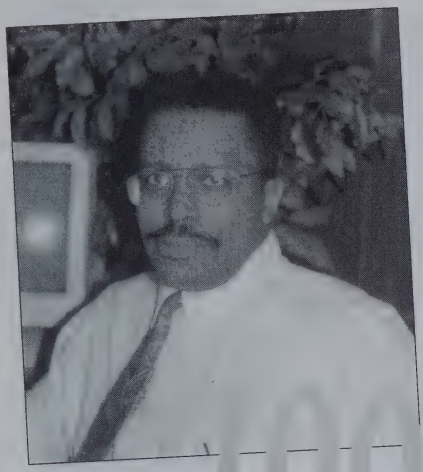
Bessie Martin
Picayune

"I never like to make New Year's resolutions that I can't keep, because I feel that it's not good to make it and then break it. So I am going to strive to be a better person in 1997 than I was in 1996.

"Happy New Year to all of you!"

Miyoka Broussard
WLOX-TV Weekend Anchor

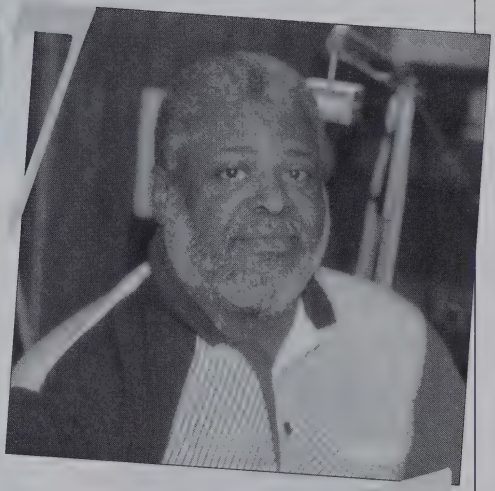
"(1) Stop procrastinating. (2) Pray more. (3) Exercise more."



Bill Stallworth

Biloxi Businessman

"My goal for Stallworth Computer is to increase net profit by 25%. We were recently given approval to be an 8A contractor which makes us eligible to compete for federal contracts. We also plan to become an authorized service center for a number of computer names, in addition to Packard Bell which is already in place."



Ira Hatchett

General Manager, WBSL Radio, Bay St. Louis

"My goal is to serve the community and operate the station by God's will. I'd like to give the community a format they do not have - sports programming, local talk and Sunday Gospel."

Giovanni Buford

Gulfport

"Take the strain off the brain. To be more of a leader and become concerned with the things going on in the community. Be more systematic and share my work load. One good slogan to remember is 'act enthusiastic and you'll be enthusiastic.' Remember to keep a smile and it will keep coming back to you."

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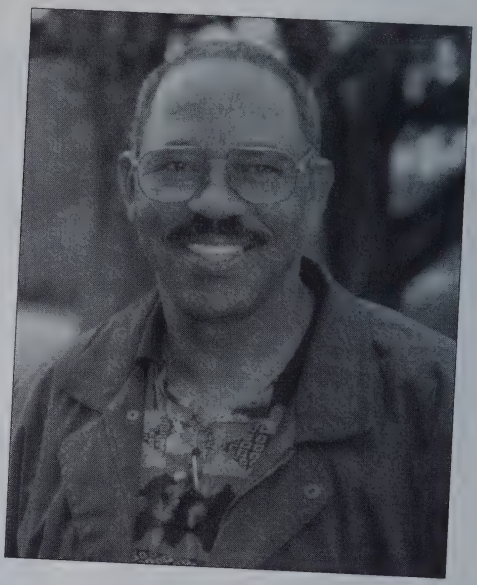

Willie E. Bradley, Jr.

Project Manager/Co-Owner
B & W Services, Inc.
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"When making New Year's or any other resolution, I must be honest, sincere and truthful to myself. Regardless if it's a personal or a business resolution, they are one in the same for me.

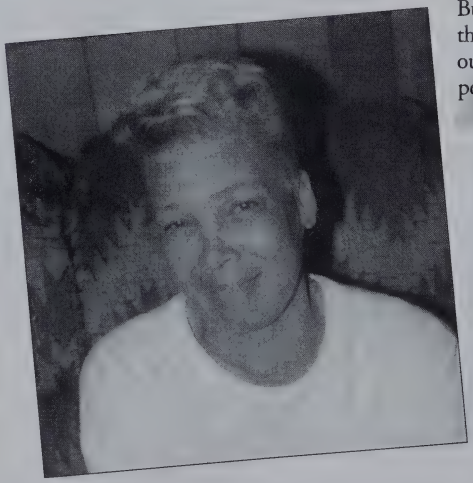
"My New Year's resolution is not a new resolution; it is my life's goals and practices. It's just renewed each year. All my life my practice/goals have been the same. At the end of the old year and the beginning of the new, I gather my wife and children and pray. I thank God for all his blessings during the past year and thank him also for his blessings for the coming year. You see, I set my goals, turn them over to God, work very hard for and with him; and, it just happens."

1997 Personal Renewed Resolutions

- To Keep God first in my life.
- To always keep my family second in my life.
- To always help my fellow man
- To remember that being a success is to keep them in this order.

1997 Renewed Business Resolutions

- To always remember who is in charge of my success.
- To continue building a strong quality organization that will keep our company at the top when it comes to the market in contracts.
- To continue to strive for excellence in customer service.
- To continue developing and implementing new and improved process management in the Technical and Business areas of company services that are cost effective while affording our customers quality and quantity performance.



Jean Dorsey

District 4 Election Commissioner
Hancock County

"Spend more time with my grandchildren and less time at BINGO."

News Briefs

HATTIESBURG Oseola McCarty participated in the New Year's Eve celebration at New York's Times Square. The 88-year old Hattiesburg native flipped the switch which initiated a timed reaction to signal the start of a new year.

HATTIESBURG Dr. Aubrey K. Lucas was the commencement speaker for his last graduation ceremony as president of the University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Lucas encouraged the 1200 plus graduates to live a life of commitment to themselves, to others and good causes. Dr. Lucas' retirement in December concluded more than twenty-one years as USM president.

POPLARVILLE Two men surrendered to police in Hattiesburg and were charged with murder in the drive-by shooting death of Terrance Fowler, 21 of Poplarville. Emmanual Respress, 27, and a juvenile were held on $1 million bond each at the Pearl River County Jail.

OXFORD The University of Mississippi has endorsed the idea of a group of black and white graduate students who are pursuing a civil rights memorial on the campus. The Civil Rights Commemoration Foundation is working to raise more than $150,000 to put up a sculpture on a spot approved by the University.

WASHINGTON, DC A national survey reported that marijuana use continues to increase in the United States. The study which involved approximately 50,000 eighth, tenth and twelfth graders, reported that casual attitudes toward the drug was the primary reason for the increase.

GULFPORT The result of the election for president of the Gulfport Branch of the NAACP was challenged by Rev. William Golden who lost to Gulfport attorney William Martin by twenty votes. The NAACP's national office was investigating alleged improprieties.

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Calendar

January 9

"Starting Your Own Small Business" Workshop
Jackson Enterprise Center
Jackson, Mississippi
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Contact Number: 968-2795

January 11

NAACP Supper Theater
Hancock County Chapter
Gulfside Assembly Center
Waveland, Mississippi
7 p.m.

January 14

8th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Birthday Observance
Prayer Breakfast
Naval Oceanographic Office
Stennis Space Center 9 a.m.

January 16

"Keeping Books for a Small Business" Workshop
Jackson Enterprise Center
Jackson, Mississippi, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Contact Number: 968-2795

January 25

Knights of Peter Claver and
KPC Ladies Auxiliary Mardi Gras Ball
Casino Magic Magicdome
Bay St. Louis, Mississippi
8 p.m.
Contact Person: Rhonda Labat
467-3732

February 1

Krewe of Real People
Mardi Gras Ball
Hancock County Civic Center
Waveland, Mississippi
9 p.m. - until

Letters to the Publisher should be 100 words or less. **Star Calendar:** Events of interest to South Mississippians should be submitted on your organization's letterhead, specifying the date, time, place of event and a number of contact.

Submissions should be received by the twentieth day of the preceding month. Be sure to include a daytime telephone number. Mail submissions to Mississippi Star, P.O. Box 2651, Bay St. Louis, MS 39521.

Mississippi Star reserves the right to refuse or decline to publish any submission.

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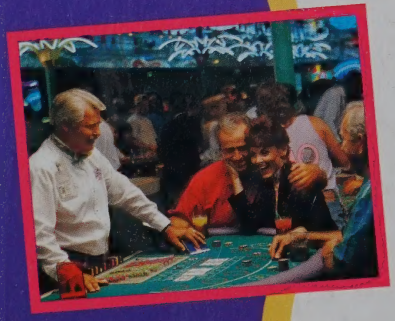

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